



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Public Affairs, Region IV

611 Ryan Plaza Drive - Suite 400

Arlington TX 76011-4005

No. IV-03-017

CONTACT: Victor Dricks

Phone: 817-860-8128

April 7, 2003

E-mail: opa4@nrc.gov

NRC TO MEET WITH PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO. TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF DIABLO CANYON

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Pacific Gas & Electric Co. on Monday, April 14, to discuss the results of the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The facility, which includes two operating reactors, is located near San Luis Obispo, Calif., and is operated by PG&E.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 333 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo, CA.

Before the session is adjourned, NRC staff will be available to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the plant, as well as the role of the NRC in ensuring safe plant operation.

The performance period to be discussed is January 1 to December 31, 2002. In addition, NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

A letter sent from the NRC Region IV Office to representatives of PG&E addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/diab_2002q4.pdf

"Overall, Diablo Canyon operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives," the letter says, noting that NRC staff plans to conduct only baseline inspections during 2003.

In addition, the letter notes: "As you are aware, since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the NRC has issued several Orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness. We have conducted inspections to review your implementation of these requirements and have monitored your actions in response to changing threat conditions. For calendar year 2003, we plan to continue these inspections and conduct portions of the security baseline

inspection program, as well as perform additional inspections to evaluate your compliance with new requirements that may be ordered."

Current performance information for Diablo Canyon Unit 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DIAB1/diab1_chart.html

Current performance information for Unit 2 is available at:

http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/DIAB2/diab2_chart.html

###